

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ACDA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8850

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, XH, XF, LE, MY, AO

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE SOVIT PRESS -- JANUARY 17-19, 1976

CINCEUR AND CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

1. SUMMARY.

--COVERAGE OF THE US IS UNUSUALLY NEGATIVE SO SHORTLY BEFORE A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT. PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW IS VERY POSITIVE ON SALT (SEPTEL), BUT OTHER COVERAGE OF THE US CONTINUES GENERALLY CRITICAL, WITH SHARP ATTACKS ON ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND CANADIAN-US DIFFERENCES. IN A NEW TWIST, THE US IS IMPLICITY BLAMED FOR THE TURMOIL IN LEBANON;

-- SEVERAL SMALL PIECES ON ANGOLA POUR COLD WATER ON COALITION GOVERNMENT CONCEPT AND CHARGE MORE ACTIVE ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT (SEPTEL);

-- MEETINGS AND COMMENTS BY SOVIET PARTY OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW IS STILL PUSHING FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (ECPC) WHICH WILL MAKE "DECISIONS";

-- MIDDLE EAST COVERAGE CONTINUES SUBDUED, STRESSES THAT UNSC SHOULD LEAD TO RECONVENING GENEVA MEPC;

-- ON CHINA, UN AMBASSADOR MALIK AND CUBAN CHIEF CASTRO ARE CITED IN SHARPLY NEGATIVE REMARKS;

-- THE SOVIETS SENT "DEEP" CONDOLENCES ON MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK'S DEATH. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. MEDIA COVERAGE OF US ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT IS PECULIARLY HARSH, DESPITE UPBEAT TREATMENT OF SALT IN PRAVDA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JANUARY 18 INTERNATIONAL REVIEW. WEEKEND REPORTS ON ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES ABROAD ARE EXTENSIVE. A RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY (JANUARY 16) WAS PARTICULARLY STRIDENT, CITING WESTERN PRESS SOURCES, BUT STRINGING THEM TOGETHER WITH SPECIAL VEHEMENCE. PRAVDA JANUARY 18 CARRIES A CARTOON SHOWING A CIA SNAKE BEHIND RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY, AND MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ON REVELATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN ITALY AND ANGOLA. ON OTHER TOPICS, PRAVDA (JANUARY 18) CARRIES A NEGATIVE COMMENTARY ON

U.S.-CANADIAN ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES, PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF US-MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE CANADIAN ECONOMY. IN A NEW THEME, THE EVENING TELEVISION NEWS (JANUARY 18) AND PRAVDA (JANUARY 19) CHARGE INDIRECTLY THAT "ZIONISTS" AND "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISTS" ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT TURMOIL IN LEBANON. THE MEDIA ALSO REPORTS AN ANTI-MILITARY DEMONSTRATION AT THE PENTAGON.

IN A MORE FAVORABLE TONE. THE PRESS REPORTS SENATOR MCGOVERN'S TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG ON THE NORMALIZATION OF US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, WHILE IZVESTIYA'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KONDRASHOV REPORTS ON ELECTION YEAR IN THE US ENDING BY REITERATING THAT US PUBLIC OPINION FAVORS FURTHER STEPS ON THE DETENTE PATH.

3. ECPC PREPARATIONS. WE HAVE SEEN NO COVERAGE OF "CONTINUATION" OF EDITORIAL GROUP MEETING, ANNOUNCED IN PRAVDA JANUARY 14, AS SUCH BUT MEETINGS HERE BETWEEN CC SECRETARY KATUSHEV AND GDR AMBASSADOR OTT JANUARY 14 AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SMOLE JANUARY 16 WERE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 16 AND 17 PRAVDA, RESPECTIVELY. TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE NOT NOTED, BUT GIVEN KATUSHEV'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR RULING PARTIES AND PARTICIPATION IN NOVEMBER MEETING IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF ECPC DID NOT COME UP. LONG UNSIGNED TASS REPORT IN PRAVDA JANUARY 18 ON JANUARY 16 KREMLIN MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN USSR CHAIRED BY MAZUROV QUOTES PONOMAREV TO EFFECT THAT "AT PRESENT TIME OUR PARTY IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN PREPARATIONS FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF COMMUNISTS, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE IDEAS AND DECISIONS OF THAT CONFERENCE WILL FACILITATE FURTHER ACTIVIZATION OF THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND TOGETHER WITH IT MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF DEMOCRATIC FEMALE PUBLIC OPINION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SECURITY, COOPERATION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS" COMMENT: GIVEN STATE OF PLAY OF CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, PONOMAREV'S MENTION OF "DECISIONS" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE TAKEN IS EITHER WISHFUL THINKING OR A CHALLENGE TO PARTIES WHO DO NOT WANT ECPC TO TAKE ANY. END COMMENT.

4. MIDDLE EAST. COVERAGE OF THE UNSC DEBATE IS SUBDUED, EXCEPT FOR AN ANTI-PRC BLURT (SEE PARAGRAPH 5) BELOW). PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK (JANUARY 19) PLAYS DOWN THE "PALESTINIAN STATE" LINE AND PLAYS UP THE "GUARANTEES FOR ALL STATES AND PEOPLES" PHRASE, WHILE MAKING THE USUAL CHARGES ABOUT ISRAEL'S OBSTRUCTIONISM AND ITS GROWING ISOLATION. CONFIRMING SOVIET ATTACHMENT TO MEPC FORUM, THE TREATMENT IMPLICITLY DOWNPLAYS THE SPECIAL SC SESSION BY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF GENEVA FOR CONCRETE RESULTS.

5. CHINA. FOLLOWING THE STRONGLY NEGATIVE AND HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE ATTACK ON PEKING IN PRAVDA ON JANUARY 16, THE MEDIA CONTINUED TO REPORT CRITICAL COMMENTS INCLUDING SOVIET UN AMBASSADOR MALIK'S

CHARGES IN THE UNSC MIDDLE EAST DEBATE THAT THE CHINESE "STAB IN THE BACK" WAS IN EFFECT AIDING THE "AGRESSORS" BY DIVERTING ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AND BY OPPOSING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA. PRAVDA (JANUARY 17) ALSO CARRIES AN ITEM FROM HAVANA IN WHICH CUBAN CHIEF CASTRO CHARGES THAT THE CHINESE ROLE IN ANGOLA PUTS THE PRC ON THE SAME SIDE AS "THE MOST REACTIONARY REGIMES" IN AFRICA LIKE SOUTH AFRICA, AS IT IS SIMILARLY LINKED, CASTRO CHARGES, WITH THE "FASCIST JUNTA" IN CHILE.

6. MALAYSIA. IZVESTIAY (JANUARY 17) REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN SENT A TELEGRAM EXPRESSING "DEEP CONDOLENCES" ON THE DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER RAZAK. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DYMSHITS AND DEPUTY MINISTRS GORDEYEV AND FIRYUBIN SIGNED THE CONDOLENCE BOOK AT THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY ON JANUARY 16. COMMENT: THE LEVEL OF THE SIGNERS IS LOWER THAN THAT FOR PRC PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI EARLIER IN THE WEEK BUT THE MESSAGE ON CHOU'S DEATH DID NOT EXPRESS "DEEP" CONDOLENCES AND IT WAS SENT SIMPLY IN THE NAME OF THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, NOT OF KOSYGIN DIRECTLY. STOESEL

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